

Soccer group loses Milton Community Fund appeal

Group says it wasn't told why its request for funding was denied

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

A local group's appeal to council to overturn a previous decision that denied it money from the Milton Community Fund proved unsuccessful Monday night.

The plea from the Milton Soccer Academy came as the first ever appeal to council regarding the fund, which was created so that local residents or groups can apply for money the Town receives from Slots at Mohawk.

The academy applied for an approximate \$6,000 grant to assist with volunteer training and equipment purchases last year, but the Town's community services advisory committee (CSAC) — which reviews the applications and makes recommendations to council — decided the request wasn't a funding priority for 2005.

"We would like to see this application reviewed once again," said Erin Carter, the academy's director of public relations. "We

believe this is a fair request."

The group's president, Uwe Samstag-Schnock, argued that the academy wasn't even given an explanation as to why its request was denied.

Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau, who sits on CSAC, referred back to the committee's decision that the soccer academy's request wasn't a funding priority at the time.

She explained that's the committee's way of saying they've received many applications and have to prioritize them.

"There's no onus on the committee to say specifically a reason 'why not,'" Ms Schau said.

Mr. Samstag-Schnock said he thinks a reason needs to be given to evaluate funding decisions for the appeal process.

Ms Schau told him if the academy had new information regarding its organization, that could form the basis of an appeal.

Pointing out that two councillors sit on the committee, Ward 3

Councillor Jan Mowbray disputed Ms Schau and Ward 4 Councillor John Challinor's comments that CSAC is an independent body of council.

But Mr. Challinor said he's always found that councillors who sit on CSAC are impartial.

"I have no issue at all with their involvement in this process," he said.

He also strongly encouraged the Milton Soccer Academy to reapply for a grant from the community fund.

Council approved the recommendation from CSAC to uphold its previous advice and decline the academy's funding request.

The Town has received 442 requests for grants from the Milton Community Fund since it was created in 2001.

Of those, CSAC has recommended funding for 64 per cent of the applicants who met the fund's criteria.

The next round of grants will be given out in the spring.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@milton-canadianchampion.com.

Transport truck and cargo stolen

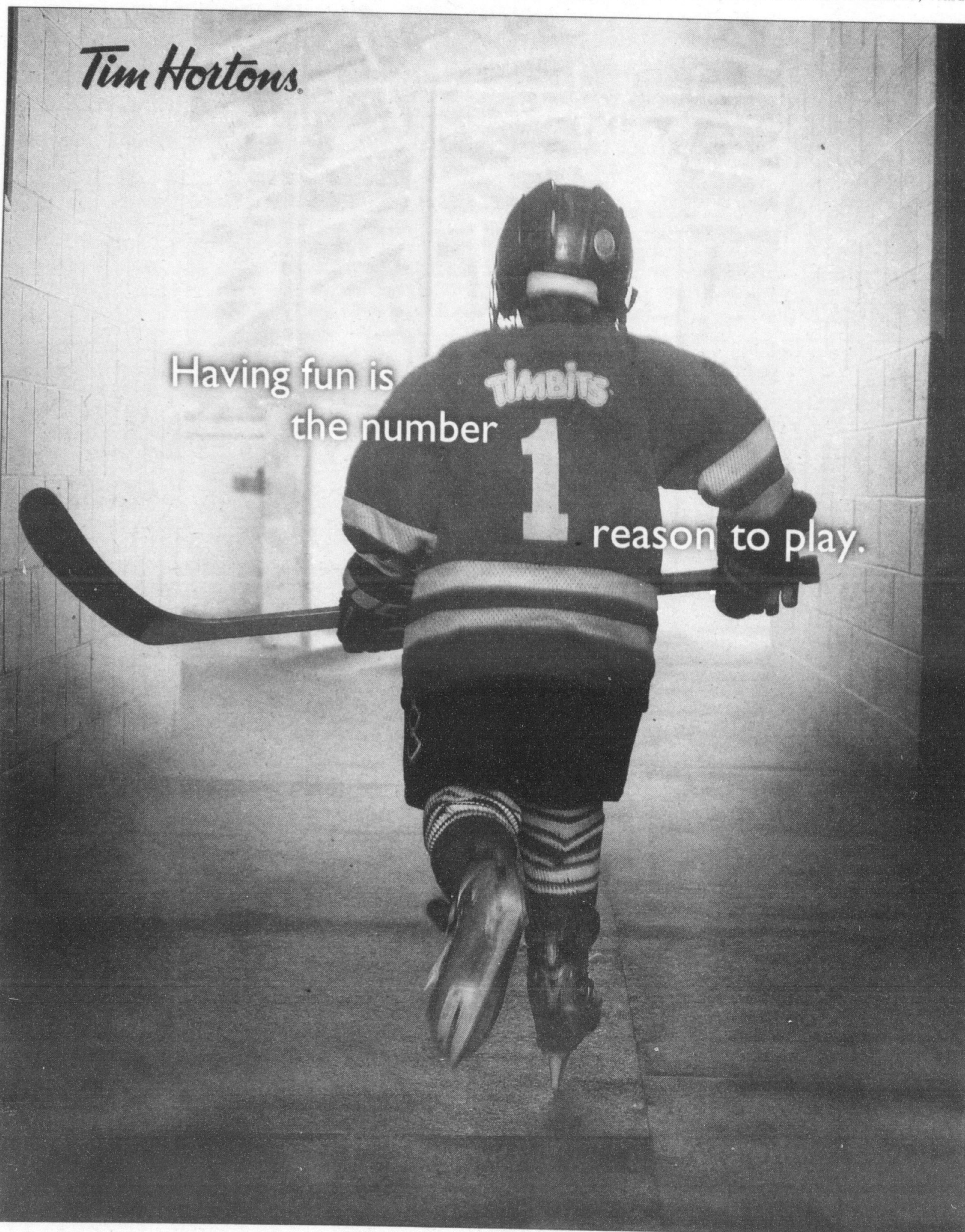
A truck and cargo with a total value of over \$500,000 U.S. was stolen from a local warehouse parking area overnight Saturday.

Halton Regional Police are investigating the incident, in which an unknown suspect made away with the truck sometime between 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday at X-Border Transportation Service on Armstrong Avenue.

The stolen truck is a white Freightline 40-foot straight truck with tandem axles and a sleeper cab. Its Ontario licence plates read PY6218. The name and logo of X-Border Transportation Inc. is painted on the driver's side and passenger doors.

At the time of the theft, the truck was carrying Bausch and Lomb contact lenses and surgical instruments, 55 flywheels, rolls of heat shrinkable film and rolls of wool.

Anyone with information regarding the matter is asked to call police at (905) 825-4777, ext. 2405 or 2415 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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